

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 5, 2005, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Claims 18-109 were previously withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner and have been cancelled herein to place the application in form for allowance. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to file a divisional application to pursue the subject matter of these claims.

The specification has been amended to reference associated patents and published applications.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Tashiro et al. (US 6,821,584). Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments is respectfully requested.

The Tashiro et al application was filed on May 20, 2003, which is before the filing date of September 3, 2003 of the instant application. The applicants note that this application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/319,360 filed on Dec. 13, 2002, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/205,033 filed on Jul. 26, 2002, which is a conversion of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/309,348 filed on Aug. 1, 2001.

Claims 1-17 that remain in the present application are fully supported in the patent application serial number 10/319,360 filed December 13, 2002. A review of claims 1-17 of published patent application 2003/0180523 will evidence this as will the associated disclosure of the originally filed 10/319,360 application. All the claims 1-17 of the present application are therefore entitled to at least the filing date of December 13, 2002 as a priority date which predates the filing date of the Tashiro et al. application. The Tashiro patent is not a prior art reference with regard to claims 1-17 of the present application. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative, undersigned below, with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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